GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4830
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001
SEIZURE OF COCAINE
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Cocaine worth Rupees 4 crore seized in the Capital, 4 Nigerians held` appearing in Indian Express dated the August 07, 2001;

(b) if so, the details/facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the quantum of drugs such as cocaine, hashish, heroin etc. smuggled into the country every year;

(d) the details of smugglers arrested dealing in drugs during the last two years and the details of drugs seized from them indicating the value of the drugs;

(e) the route through which these drugs are being smuggled into the country; and

(f) the action/measures taken by the Government to check their smuggling?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Unit of Narcotics Control Bureau exposed a drug trafficking racket involving some Nigerian Nationals spread across Pakistan, India and Europe with the arrest of four Nigerians and seizure of 396 gms. of high quality cocaine.

(c)&(d) Drug smuggling and trafficking is a clandestine activity. The total quantity of drug seizures in 1998, 1999 and 2000 of Opium, Morphine, Heroin, Ganja, Hashish, Cocaine, Methaqualone, Ephedrine and LSD, as reported by various Drug Law Enforcemen Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 83335 kgs., 46751 kgs. and 110581 kgs. respectively. Since all narcotic drugs confiscated are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists, no precise valuation can be made. The total number of persons arrested in 1998, 1999 and 2000 for drug trafficking, including smugglers, of Opium, Morphine, Heroin, Ganja, Hashish, Cocaine, Methaqualone, Ephedrine and LSD, as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 13243, 13490 and 15065 respectively.

(e) The Indo-Pak border, the Indo-Myanmar border, the Indo-Nepal border and the Indo-Sri Lanka border are the identified routes through which the drug are being smuggled into the country.

(f) Government of India has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, notifying certain precursor chemicals viz. Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine etc. as `Controlled Substances` under the NDPS Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, signing of a bilateral agreement with Pakistan to hold periodic meetings at Secretary level and Director General level, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, signing of a bilateral agreement with Myanmar, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs to Myanmar and training dog handlers of Myanmar.